

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

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## CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE KIT

Ash Wednesday, 2006

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you.

As you take up this **congregational resource kit**, the Season of Lent is unfolding a day and a week at a time. The realities of Holy Week and the Great Three Days lie ahead. Easter is still a ways off. You and I —together with God's people across the ELCIC and around the world in the global Christian community— are being reminded anew of how deeply our worship life expresses and shapes who we are.

Several years ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America invited the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to participate in a **Renewing Worship** project, a process designed to yield a new collection of worship resources to succeed Lutheran Book of Worship. The *Renewing Worship* project has been a terrific adventure and has begun to yield its first fruits: a new worship book called **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.

Two important **gratitudes** must be expressed off the top. We are extremely grateful to our friends in the ELCA for their gracious invitation to participate in this important work and for the way in which they received and honoured our collaboration at every step. To our sisters and brothers in the ELCA, we say thank you.

We are also grateful to the many people of the ELCIC who sat on editorial teams and development panels, who made submissions, assisted with field testing, provided feedback and much more. To you, as well, we say thanks. It has been a wonderful journey of development, discovery and of congregational, synodical, national and international work. To all who lent their hand to the task, **we are grateful**.

Before you, you have a **congregational resource kit** which will serve to introduce you to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and to help you determine how best your community might embrace our new worship book.

Recently, eight people were asked to represent the ELCIC at an important training event in Chicago. These people, together with two other coordinators of the Canadian dimension of the *Renewing Worship / Evangelical Lutheran Worship* project will assist in introducing *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* across the ELCIC.

Five people are serving as **Synod Resource People** for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

- Lorraine Reinhardt (musician; British Columbia)
- Robyn Simpson-Mohr (campus ministry coordinator; Alberta & the Territories)
- Brenda Nestegaard Paul (parish pastor and PCW member; Saskatchewan)
- Larry Weckwerth (music teacher and parish musician; Manitoba / Northwestern Ontario)
- Eric Dyck (parish pastor and PCW member; Eastern)

Two people are serving as **Seminary Resource People** for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*:

- Jann Boyd (Professor of Liturgy, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon)
- David Hall (Seminary Musician, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo)

Three people are serving as **Project Coordinators** for the Canadian dimension of Renewing Worship / *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

- Debbie Lou Ludolph is a lay person and musician. Recently named the ELCIC's 2006 Companion of the Worship Arts, Debbie Lou is focusing on the implementation phase of the project, interpreting *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* to the ELCIC community.
- Karen Johnson-Lefsrud is a pastor and parish musician. Karen continues to relate primarily to the ELCA worship staff and to the American side of the project.
- André Lavergne is a parish pastor and text specialist. André continues to relate primarily to the ELCIC community and to the Canadian side of the project.

In the weeks to come, the ELCIC community will receive news of a number of training events and other opportunities to become familiar with our new worship book. As this letter goes to press, fall **introductory workshops** are envisioned for Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax. Additional workshops will take place early in 2007. In the interim, many other national, synodical and seminary events will begin to explore the richness of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.



This kit is simply a first step in the congregational journey. For current and additional information people are invited to visit **Lift Up Your Hearts** at [www.worship.ca](http://www.worship.ca). The site also carries news of this summer's terrific national worship conference, **Making All Things New**, to be held July 12 to 15 in Regina. A one-day, pre-conference workshop (July 11) will focus on *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The Friday banquet will honour the ELCIC's newest Companion of the Worship Arts.

Please take some time to become familiar with the content of this congregational resource kit. We look forward to your partnership and support in the unfolding introduction of **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.

All blessings.

André Lavergne,  
with Debbie Lou Ludolph and Karen Johnson-Lefsrud,  
Project Coordinators,  
ELCIC + Evangelical Lutheran Worship.